

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE

USDELMC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAFAE RAMSTEIN PRIORITY

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES PRIORITY

DIRNSA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: GENERAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

SEPTEMBER 16.

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT SEPT 16 MEETING OF GENERAL WORKING GROUP,
GREEK INITIATED REFORMULATION OF FREQUENCY INTERFERENCE COMMON
APPENDIX ARTICLE AND LANGUAGE DEFERRING DEVELOPMENT OF HELLENIKON
COST-SHARING FORMULA WERE AGREED AD REFERENDUM. DISCUSSION OF
GENERAL ACCESS PROVISION AND REFORMULATION OF COMMON SECURITY
ARTICLE WAS DEFERRED. UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE BY WASHINGTON,
WE WILL ACCEPT RADIO FREQUENCY ALLOCATION AND COST-SHARING
LANGUAGE AT MONDAY, SEPT 20 MEETING OF GENERAL WORKING GROUP.
END SUMMARY.

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1. FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS: IN AN INFORMAL PRESENTATION, THE

GREEK SIDE PROPOSED TO REWORD PARA 1 OF FREQUENCY INTERFERENCE ARTICLE IN AN EFFORT TO CLARIFY AND SIMPLIFY PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS. GREEKS POINTED OUT THAT IMPRECISION OF PRESENT TEXT COULD LEAD TO CONFUSING COORDINATION AMONG THE US REQUESTING AGENCY, ARFA, AND THE APPROPRIATE GREEK AUTHORITIES. BOTH SIDES COLLABORATED IN DEVELOPING THE FOLLOWING FORMULATION OF PARA 1, WHICH WE BELIEVE IS AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE PREVIOUSLY AGREED LANGUAGE.

BEGIN QUOTE:

1. REQUESTS FOR ALLOCATIONS OF FREQUENCIES FOR THE UNTIED STATES FORCES SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE APPROPRIATE HELLENIC AUTHORITIES FOR APPROVAL. APPLICATION TO THE HELLENIC AUTHORITIES WILL INCLUDE ALL INFORMATION WHICH IS NORMALLY REQUIRED WITH ALLIED RADIO FREQUENCY AGENCY SUBMISSION AND SHOULD SPECIFY THE INTENDED USE OF THE FREQUENCY. WHEN APPROPRIATE, COORDINATION WITH THE ALLIED RADIO FREQUENCY AGENCY WILL BE EFFECTED. END QUOTE.

2. COST SHARING:

A. THE GREEKS SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE COST SHARING PROPOSAL MADE DURING THE JULY WASHINGTON ROUND (AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR LANDING FEES) EXTENDED BEYOND WEAR AND TEAR TO RUNWAYS AND TAXIWAYS FROM US USE. IN AMPLIFICATION, THEY HAD INFERRED THAT IT WOULD ALSO COVER SUCH ITEMS AS AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL, FOLLOW-ME TRUCKS, RUNWAY AND APPROACH LIGHTING, AND OTHER SIMILAR SERVICES DIRECTLY RELATED TO FLIGHT OPERATIONS. THE US SIDE REITERATED THAT THE US WAS WILLING TO PAY FOR ADDITIONAL, SPECIFIC SERVICES REQUESTED FOR US AIRCRAFT, AND THE WEAR AND TEAR DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO US FORCES' USE, BUT THAT IT WAS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR HELLENIC AUTHORITIES TO ASK THE US TO REIMBURSE THEM FOR AVIATION RELATED SERVICES WHICH ARE CARRIED OUT AS A MATTER OF ROUTINE AND WHICH DO NOT REQUIRE THE EXPENDITURE OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES JUST TO ACCOMMODATE US MILITARY AIRCRAFT. THE US SIDE FURTHER ARGUED THAT MOST OF THE USE OF THE HELLENON FACILITIES WAS ASSOCIATED WITH COMMON DEFENSE PURPOSES AND THAT IT WOULD BE UNCONSCIONABLE FOR THE U.S. TO HAVE TO PAY FOR SUCH FEES AND CHARGES FOR ITS MUTUAL

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SECURITY EFFORTS. THE GREEKS EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF THIS ARGUMENT AND SUGGESTED THAT LANGUAGE BE DEVELOPED THAT WOULD DEFER THE DETAILS OF COST SHARING UNTIL AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE DCA WITHOUT PREJUDICING THE POSITIONS OF EITHER SIDE. THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE WAS DEVELOPED AT THE TABLE:

BEGIN QUOTE:

THE UNITED STATES FORCES SHALL REIMBURSE THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC A PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE ACTUAL OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES OF MUTUALLY AGREED FACILITIES AND SERVICES OF ATHENS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WHICH, ALTHOUGH NOT PART OF THE MILITARY AND SUPPORTING FACILITIES, ARE REGULARLY USED BY AIRCRAFT OF THE UNITED STATES FORCES. SUCH PROPORTIONATE SHARE SHALL BE COMPUTED BY THE APPLICATION OF THOSE EXPENSES OF A FORMULA MUTUALLY DEVELOPED ON THE BASIS OF THE RADIO WHICH USE BY AIRCRAFT OF THE UNITED STATES FORCES HAS TO THE TOTAL USE BY ALL MILITARY AND CIVIL AIRCRAFT. A TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENT WILL BE CONCLUDED IN THIS RESPECT BY THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF THE TWO PARTIES WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD AFTER THE DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT. THE FORMULA CONTAINED THEREIN SHALL BE APPLIED RETROACTIVELY FROM THAT DATE. END QUOTE.

COMMENT: EVEN THOUGH THIS FORMULATION DOES INCLUDE THE WORD "SERVICES" TO SATISFY THE GREEKS, WE BELIEVE THE OPERATIVE TERM "MUTUALLY AGREED" ADEQUATELY PROTECTS THE U.S. FROM AN OBLIGATION TO PAY FOR UNSPECIFIED SERVICES. MOREOVER, ANY COST SHARING FORMULA WOULD BE SUBJECT TO MUTUAL AGREEMENT.

B. THE GREEKS ASKED THAT A SIMILAR PROVISION ON COST SHARING BE INCLUDED IN THE IRAKLION APPENDIX. US SIDE RESPONDED THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE BECAUSE OF THE VERY LIMITED US USE OF THE IRAKLION AIRPORT. THE GREEKS STATED THAT THEY WOULD REPORT THIS POSITION TO THEIR AUTHORITIES.

3. GENERAL ACCESS: THE GREEKS STATED THAT THEY WERE STILL AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE US PROPOSAL FOR THE SECOND PARAGRAPH OF THE GENERAL ACCESS PROVISION. THEREFORE, DISCUSSION ON THIS TOPIC WAS DEFERRED.

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4. THE FOLLOWING WORK SCHEDULE WAS AGREED:

SATURDAY, SEPT 18 - INTELLIGENCE TOPICE
MONDAY, SEPT 20 - GENERAL WORKING GROUP
TUESDAY, SEPT 21 - SOUDA
- HELLENIKON

5. UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE BY WASHINGTON, WE WILL AGREE TO REFORMULATIONS IN PARAS 1 AND 2 ABOVE ON MONDAY, SEPT 20.
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